

# FIREMAN KILLED WHEN TRAIN STRUCK REEL

## Ransom Lewis Died Enroute to Hospital in Ambulance — Col- lision Occurred at Union Ave. Crossing of the Illinois Central Railroad — Crossing is a Very Dangerous One on Account of Embankments.

While making a run to a fire on Union avenue between 9 and 10 o'clock Monday night, the West Side hose reel was struck by the south-bound Illinois Central passenger train at the Union avenue crossing, and Ransom Lewis, a pipeman, 33 years old, was so seriously wounded that he died in the ambulance en route to the hospital.

On the reel at the time, besides Lewis, were Albert Brennfleck, the driver; August Pflugmacher, Joseph Kuhn and Wm. Wagner, members of the fire department. Outside of bruises, the other men on the reel escaped injury.

The crossing where the accident occurred is a very dangerous one on account of steep embankments which make it utterly impossible to see an approaching train until it reaches the crossing. It is said that the engineer also failed to sound a warning of the approaching train.

At the time of the accident the reel was responding to a call for a fire in a shed on Union avenue. When the train struck the reel the crash was heard for many blocks and residents rushed to the scene.

Lewis, the man who was killed, was standing on the rear foot-board and when the crash occurred his body was hurled onto the track and both of his legs were severed and his side crushed in. He was unconscious when picked up and placed in the ambulance to be hurried to the hospital, and died en route without regaining his senses.

Pflugmacher was hurled about 25 feet but escaped serious injury for the reason that he alighted in a grass plot a few feet from the track. The other occupants of the truck were hurled in various directions.

The horses and a portion of the reel had crossed the track when the crash came. The front wheels of the truck and one rear wheel were damaged, the horses escaping injury.

It is said that the train was running at a high rate of speed when the crash occurred and that the train continued for a distance of two blocks before it could be brought to a standstill. The horses ran for two blocks, when they were stopped.

Ransom Lewis, who met death, was appointed a member of the depart-

ment about four months ago. He was a married man and is survived by his widow and a 7-months-old child.

Monday night's accident is the first to result in a fatality to the local department since that in which Chief Fred. B. Phillips was killed in, several years ago, when the truck on which he was riding was struck by an Oakland car at Main and Jackson streets.

Ransom Lewis resided at No. 9 South Fair street. He was born in Plattsburg, N. Y., December 18, 1874, and was a son of Levi Lewis. He was married to Miss Mary Sprintz in St. Louis, February 8, 1910.

Besides his widow and one child he leaves his parents, two sisters and one brother.

The funeral was held Wednesday afternoon at Walnut Hill Cemetery.

Chief Tobin of East St. Louis, accompanied by seventeen firemen of the East St. Louis department, were here to attend the funeral. The city officials and Aldermen also attended the interment.

The pall-bearers were as follows: Wm. Wagner, Jos. Kuhn and Wm. Pader of the Belleville fire department, and Charles Herlig, Charles Denny and Charles Ripley of the East St. Louis fire department.

Mayor Fred. J. Kern spoke at the grave at the request of the family.

Coroner Dr. B. E. Twitchell, who held the inquest, completed the investigation on Wednesday morning and the Coroner's jury returned a verdict as follows: "By being hit by engine No. 2030, drawing train No. 203 of the Illinois Central Railroad Company while on his way to a fire on hose reel No. 2."

The Coroner's jury was composed of the following: Henry Beineke, Ed. Friedlich, Frank Muloch, Ed. Schaab, Thomas F. Mott and Charles Bauer.

### NOTICE!

There will be a meeting of miners of Miller's (Roplequet's) mine tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock sharp. All miners are requested to be present.

The Committee.

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